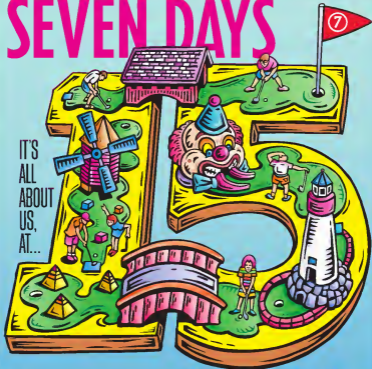


SEVEN DAYS

VERMONT'S INDEPENDENT PRESS SEPTEMBER 06-12, 2008 VOL. 15 NO. 2 SEVENDAYSVT.COM

IT'S
ALL
ABOUT
US,
AT...



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Maltese Building reborn at the Hop



DELETING THE PAST

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Online embarrassments, begone!



THE HAIR! THE SHRIEKS!

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Alice Levitt catches Bieber fever



NICE RACKS!

Readers pick up Seven Days at more than 1000 locations around Vermont, as well as Plattsburgh, N.Y. We're grateful for every single venue, but we photographed 15 for our 15th. How many of these sites can you identify?

See more 70 birthday fun starting on page 268

From left, top: "Night" Beach Spiders, Harp's Lanes, Oak Market/Garden View, Main Street (Huntingburg), Samson's Supply, Playhouse Court, City Market, Center Brick/Carbon Mosaic, Langston Street Café, Husky Waters, North Winona Ave. (aeromarket), FreshMarket, Red Square, Apple's Cantina, Breweries Warehouse.



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Hoppy Birthday!

[illegible]

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"On the Marketplace"

38 Church St.
862-5126

Monday-Thursday 10-8
Friday & Saturday 10-9
Sunday 11-6



FLIN STUFF

- straight, sharp lines
and sharp
modern style
first with a strategy
name: quirk
to sublimation, but
they'll, what was
the a character
not making a mental
picture, a sketch
a new one off
personally

CLASSIFIEDS

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| businesses | 0.3 |
| vehicles | 0.3 |
| housing | 0.0 |
| FD ownership | 0.0 |
| help | -0.4 |
| services | 0.4 |
| buy this stuff | -0.8 |
| money | 0.4 |
| public services | 0.3 |
| legals act | 0.4 |
| support groups | 0.8 |
| jobs | 0.0 |

 VIDEO

Sticks in Vermont: Yolk Attack The three families that formed the Vermont Yolk Company in 2004 have been learning the ancient Tibetan art of yolk farming.



www.elsevier.com/locate/jmr

SEVEN DAYS® Back to School

Our first
issue!

FROM BIRTH TO A BIRTHDAY
FROM A BIRTHDAY TO A BIRTHDAY
FROM A BIRTHDAY TO A BIRTHDAY
FROM A BIRTHDAY TO A BIRTHDAY

Back in the Day...

95

SEVEN DAYS IS 15!

Inevitably, that'll sound like a lot of years to some, while 1996 seems like "just yesterday" to others. Either way, we take it as a complement that so many Vermonters seem unable to remember a time without *Seven Days*. We'd like to think we've become an integral part of life in this state, for the role we play in reflecting our shared community. We hope you learn something new about that place every time you read the paper, check the website or open one of our e-newsletters.

Today's technology has allowed *Seven Days* to grow into a multimedia company. But, at the heart of national trends, the weekly print product is still very much in demand here. We have a robust distribution list upon which our Burlington City Market factures a week and still get calls from businesses around the state that want stacks of papers delivered to them. There's nothing more gratifying to us than seeing stacks of papers pore over the pages of a fresh edition on Wednesday afternoons.

Businesses advertise with *Seven Days* because they want to reach you, our readers. We use

those resources to investigate, and report on, the community we live in. We also support it by publicizing events, issues and worthy causes. *Seven Days* has sponsored so many nonprofit events and fundraisers over the past 15 years, there isn't space to list them all. It's an honor to live in a place with so many active, engaged people who want to improve things. *Seven Days* employees are among them.

Local media facilitate civic engagement, and Vermont is blessed with numerous websites that truly enhance their users. Publishers who live in the communities they cover know and care about their own intricacy that eludes national media chains. You can support local media by patronizing their advertisers, who are most likely mom-and-pop themselves. Your hometown newspaper is the media equivalent of a fresh Vermont veggie: sustainable, job creating, healthy and homegrown. So, dig in. We promise to keep providing local color, essential materials and a satisfying crunch.

— PAULA ROUTLY & PAMELA POLSTON



Top: Burlington's Frederick Kirby Erickson, Left: City Park Center: Maggie Swanson, Pamela Polston, Paula Routly, Nick Woods
Bottom: Samantha Hunt, Dave Tordella

1981 - 2000



SO FAR, SO GOOD

Readers share their personal stories about Seven Days

Over the last couple of weeks we asked readers, "How was it for you?" referring to *Seven Days'* first 15 years and their current relationship to the paper. But even we were surprised at how many of them said they met their current spouse just through our personal ads. *Awww*.

Others told us what they turn to first in the paper, or gushed about a fun experience with videographer Eva Solberger on "Stash in Vermont," or recalled a specific issue or column that made an impression. All of it is a swell 25th birthday present, so, thanks! Here, we share the feedback.

But wait! We promised that a random respondent would win a package of gift certificates to local restaurants. And that lucky *Seven Days* reader is ...

Stacy Reicher of Montpelier!

So, let's hear her story first.

I no longer look down to every issue of *Seven Days*. I also receive the weekly email [NOW] and, quite frankly, my week is not complete without *Seven Days*. My favorite part is the Free Will Autobiography — It is the thing I turn to first and it is my guide for the week! I also laugh at the personal ads and study the advice of Mistress Mavis. I purchase the rest of the paper and note events, advertisements, and movie and restaurant reviews. There isn't a single paper over the last 13 years that I haven't thoroughly enjoyed.

There is one funny thing though that I do I use my leftover papers in the spring to match my garden, and often my husband will find me sitting down in the garden looking at the paper again, perhaps at something I missed. So, sitting in a garden now, a pile of dirt and straw, reading *Seven Days*. It's wonderful.

Thank you all for all that you do for the Vermont community.

Jay Strauss, Plainfield and Burlington

I did meet my wife and live all of my life several years ago via *Seven Days* after hundreds of other dates. My old newspaper sitting and my wife responded to it. We spoke on the phone many times before meeting.

We first met in Burlington on a bench next to the [BCHQ] waterfront science museum. She was dog sitting and, as we walked along the boardwalk I thought, This is all wrong. All she talks about is this darn dog. I thought the trip was a big waste of time. We both had sunglasses on and could not see each other's eyes.

When again soon after, with no dogs involved. We started dating on a regular basis and I fell in love with her and I asked her to marry me, many times over. She finally said yes, and we wedded at the top of Mount Mansfield under a canopy, in front of friends and family.

Every day with her is the fireworks and big hands playing. I love her with all my heart. I write her sweet poems, emails, cards, and give her flowers, etc.

We swim, hike, camp, cook, canoe, bicycle and enjoy life to the fullest together. I'm still not a great downhill skier, but try to keep up with her on the slopes.

I guess I love *Seven Days* a big thanks.

Tamara M. Benjamin, East Montpelier

Love your daily newsletter (the Daily 7) and just picked up the paper today! Especially like the info on upcoming events regarding music and theater.

Leslie Merwin, Cheshire, Conn.

While I was in Burlington working for Store Farm Nursing Center, I found a wonderful second job playing organ in the United Church of Christ here throughout all of *Seven Days*. The congregation and choir there were very, very special. I'm no longer living in the area, but will always treasure that experience.

Staff Photo



From top, L to R, Lauren Oliver (Montpelier), Michael Brinkman (Montpelier), Shannon Trainor (Montpelier), John Wilson (Hinesburg), and Julie Brinkman (Troy) posing for the photo.

John Wilson, Hinesburg

For many years I eagerly picked up *Seven Days* each week for two primary reasons: Peter Frazee's column ["Inside Track"] and the crossword puzzle. If I had time, I'd read further, but those were the incentives to never miss the paper.

Today, I read further into other articles and enjoy the paper each week.

Thanks for a great local publication!

Shannon Trainor, Montpelier

Seven Days is the only local paper I pick up regularly (the price is right). But the paper most impacted my life because that's how I met my fiancé.

We first met through the "Two 2 Targets" [personals] one back in March 2007. By date number three we were a couple. By date number four we were



saying "I love you." And within a month of meeting, we were joking about getting married.

So, to be overdramatic, I could say my current happiness and the next 50 years of happiness are due to *Seven Days*. Although I could also say the huge outpouring of wedding well-wishes I've received since then may or may not be attributed to *Seven Days*. But I prefer to look on the bright side of things.

Thanks, *Seven Days*!

April Howard, Burlington

Since 2002, when I've lived outside of Vermont for parts of years in New York, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina, I've read *Seven Days* from afar as a way to continue to feel connected to Burlington, and my former hometown of Richmond. More than any other online publication covering the state, *Seven Days* encapsulates and records so many of the wonderful things about living in Vermont and in Burlington. Thanks for all the work you do!

Jerry Hinckley, Williamstown

I have been reading your paper since its beginning. Your recent story about Lt. Governor Brian Dubie was an eye-opener, causing me to reconsider my opinion as an independent voter in this coming election. I have another letter ready to send to your paper concerning discipline and diversity in your August 25, 2010 issue. Keep going! Your articles cause us to think, wonder and hope for a better world.

Staff Photo



Clockwise from top left: David Sullivan, Matthew Thayer, Tyler Macneil, Colby Roberts, Kristin Woodard, David Carroll

Fred L. Hiltz, Shelburne

David and Sally Carroll made the connection with Eva Solberg for her video about maple sugaring in Wake Robin, the only life-care community we knew with its own sugarcreek.

We who appeared in the show were, of course, enthusiastic. The word soon spread to families and friends, through our community and out to people interested in Wake Robin. Our website still features the link on its front page.

Our marketing manager says that she often hears about it from people contacting the department: "My, you seem to have fun there!" While that is certainly true, it was Fred's contagious, happy personality that brought a out in to "sugars."

We hope the will return for video about beekeeping, maple dye. The honey harvest is early September in the north, visually interesting part of the story.

Ken Hagggett, Lake Elmore

Seven Days began to change my life 10 years ago. I placed a personal ad and enjoyed many a conversation over coffee with various women I met. Eventually, I met my current partner and wife as a result of that ad. It's not always easy to meet others in this rural state of ours, and the *Seven Days* personals make it possible to meet a wide range of people with similar interests. It sure worked for us!

The next experience I had with *Seven Days* was in hiring employees for my fledgling dog-leash business about five years ago. After placing ads in several local papers and not receiving much in the way of quality applicants, I decided to use *Seven Days* for the next round. What a difference! I had six or seven applicants, my one of whom I could have hired. The two I did end up hiring are still working with me now, four years later.

My latest experience with *Seven Days* involved a visit from Eva [Solberg] to film a version of "Stuck in Vermont" featuring our dog-leash boys. I'm flirty, carefree, but Eva made the whole outing very relaxed and I had a great time. I was amazed how she took around two hours of footage and edited it down to about five minutes of video that really succeeded in capturing the essence of my business.

I just remembered one more positive interaction I have had with *Seven Days*, if you can believe it... It seems like the more I think about it, the more I realize what a great resource *Seven Days* has been over the past 10 years.

Ken Poward and his dog Nucky came to do a dog-scooter outing with me in the fall of 2006. He wrote a very nice article on the visit, titled "Mutt Motives" [November 13, 2006].

So, how *Seven Days* affected my life in the past 10 years? You might say it has. I wonder what the next 10 will bring.

DO PAUL TO CORRE: 24 P.32



SO FAR, SO GOOD BY JEN

Laura Lewandowski, Bristol

"Stuck in Vermont" helped me change my life. Since our first visit to Vermont in 2006, my husband and I spoke often of uprooting ourselves from our South Dakota house and moving east to Vermont. We liked almost every single thing we experienced during our vacation — the views, the museums, the farmers markets and especially the people. But to uproot and move half way across the country on the back of one week in paradise was a daunting prospect.

My husband and I (now retired) made a good living applying research to everyday problems. We decided to research Vermont to see if this was what we really wanted to do. Scouring the Internet for any and all information related to Vermont, in early 2009 we found Seven Days and "Stuck in Vermont." The very first DVD video I watched was episode 12A, called "Sheep Shearing School" [April 15, 2009]. I not only learned about Shillbourn Farms and sheep shearing, but also about the quirky, informative way Eva Schloberger presents the state in which she lives. I was hooked. I watched each DVD for over a year and learned so much — why would anyone not want to live in Vermont? The decision to relocate here became a no-brainer!

The videos not only helped us decide to move, they helped to determine a method of moving. That is no DVD, we drove many areas of Vermont we wished to investigate as potential homes. To be certain we landed in the right place for us, we rented a furnished home for a few months in our target area so we could explore. We ended up in a village we would not have considered otherwise and are very happy here. This was the best move we could have made. ☺



Staff Photo



Top: From left, Allison Davis, George Fox, Andy Brannage, Cathy Bower, Ashley Bower.

Bottom: From left, Bob Baker, Mary Hall, Megan James, Suzanne Potholm, Elizabeth Evans, Deborah Ward.

